

police. They would tell the ministers involved with security—the Minister of National Defence, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Minister of Justice and myself—certain information. They would tell us about subversive groups in Canada, about terrorist groups in Canada, and so on. We did not ask them each time where they got this information.

**Mr. Broadbent:** Each time? It only came up once!

**Mr. Trudeau:** We did not ask the police where they got the information about these terrorists. We did not say to them: Did you break the law in order to get it? Did you have to infiltrate a group?

**Mr. Baldwin:** You should have done!

**Mr. Trudeau:** I hear from the hon. member for Peace River that a prime minister should ask that kind of question.

**Some hon. Members:** Yes!

**Mr. Broadbent:** Only if you want to know the truth.

**Mr. Trudeau:** To this, I can only say two things. The first is that we on this side presume that the police are an honest group of people.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Trudeau:** This does not mean they do not sometimes make mistakes. But when they do make mistakes and we discover them, for example, breaking the law, we report it to the Attorney General of the province where the act is suspected to have been committed. The second point is that if we on this side are to be urged by both opposition parties to begin monitoring the day by day operations of the police, asking them about their information, how they got it, who they got it from, we shall have secrets on a lot of Canadians and we will hear from the opposition that it is not the role of the government to involve itself in the political direction of the RCMP.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

● (1432)

BREAK-IN AT L'AGENCE DE PRESSE LIBRE—LETTER DATED DECEMBER 19, 1972, FROM DIRECTOR OF SECURITY TO MINISTER

**Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby):** Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister takes five minutes to make little speeches. I would simply remind him that the questions which have come from the official opposition and from ourselves are not about things in general, they are about this specific incident concerning the Parti Québécois. So your baloney is not going to kid anyone, Mr. Prime Minister.

I should like to ask a question on a related matter. The Prime Minister and the former Solicitor General, the present Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, have maintained that they did not learn of the illegal entry into the offices of L'Agence de Presse Libre until March, 1976. Since I have learned that, according to an affidavit signed by the present Solicitor General on the twelfth of this month, a letter dated

### *Oral Questions*

December 19, 1972 was sent by the director-general of the security service on the subject of the 1972 break-in to the present Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, would the Prime Minister undertake to inform the House of the contents of this letter, at least as they pertain to that break-in?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, the leader of the New Democratic Party, like the Leader of the Opposition, was complaining a moment ago that I was not in the House yesterday. Now, they are complaining that I am answering at too great a length, Mr. Speaker. The answer to this question will be given by the Solicitor General.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Francis Fox (Solicitor General):** Mr. Speaker, I am indeed pleased to have the opportunity of responding to the specific question put by the leader of the New Democratic Party. It is my hope that in the months to come the members of the opposition will show as much morality in the pursuit of their parties' objectives as they expect from the police in the pursuit of national security. Perhaps the next time the members of the opposition receive stolen documents, Mr. Speaker, they will think in terms of returning them to the proper authority.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The Solicitor General might confine himself to the answer.

**Mr. Clark:** He has not done so yet.

**Mr. Fox:** Mr. Speaker, I should like to point out that the leader of the New Democratic Party, who has made a great deal about this letter since last night, captivating the attention of the people across the country and indicating that this letter contains material—

**Some hon. Members:** Order.

**Mr. Speaker:** If the Solicitor General has a response, will he make it forthwith.

**Mr. Fox:** Mr. Speaker, I should like to point out to the leader of the New Democratic Party that all the documents indicated in that affidavit will be made available to the McDonald commission of inquiry. I should like also to point out to the hon. member that the letter in question is not from Mr. Starnes to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs; rather it is a letter from the present director-general of the security service, General Dare, to the minister. There is a typographical error in the document: the document in question ought properly to be dated December, 1973 and it relates in no manner whatsoever to the break-in at the APLQ headquarters in October of 1972. Had the hon. member communicated with me this morning, Mr. Speaker, I would have been delighted to give him that particular piece of information.